

## **The Medicare Dental, Vision, and Hearing Benefit Act of 2017**

*Rep. Sander Levin, Ranking Member of Ways and Means Health Subcommittee*

The Medicare Dental, Vision, and Hearing Benefit Act [H.R. 3111] provides for coverage of items and services that are crucial in supporting the overall health of Medicare beneficiaries. The bill expands covered benefits under Medicare Part B, while containing reasonable measures to facilitate implementation and contain costs.

### **Dental and Oral Health Care**

- Repeals the statutory exclusion on Medicare coverage of dental care and dentures.
- Expands Part B benefits to cover dental and oral health services, including routine cleanings and exams, fillings and crowns, major services such as root canals and extractions, emergency dental care, and other necessary services.
- Provides for payment for both full and partial dentures.
- Gradually phases in benefits over an 8-year period and contains reasonable cost containment measures.

### **Vision Care**

- Repeals the statutory exclusion on Medicare coverage of vision care.
- Expands Part B benefits to include vision services, including routine eye exams, procedures performed to determine the refractive state of the eyes, and other necessary services.
- Provides for payment for eyeglasses, contact lenses, and low-vision devices.
- Gradually phases in benefits over an 8-year period and contains reasonable cost containment measures.

### **Hearing Care**

- Repeals the statutory exclusion on Medicare coverage of hearing care.
- Expands Part B benefits to include hearing services, including hearing exams, exams for hearing aids, and other necessary services.
- Provides for payment for hearing aids.
- Gradually phases in benefits over an 8-year period and contains reasonable cost containment measures.